

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for generating ~~digitised documents~~digital document data files for a digital environment, comprising:

a plurality of scanners, each provided with a local operator control unit;
and

a management unit connected to said scanners and to the digital environment,

wherein the management unit is provided with:

inputting means for receiving, from the digital environment, a request for a ~~digitised document,~~digital document data file,

warning means for communicating a request for a ~~digitised~~digital document data file to said plurality of scanners,

receiving means for receiving from any one of the scanners ~~presenting itself by an~~ autonomous acceptance of the request as selected via said local operator control unit of that scanner, and

allocation means ~~whereby, for,~~ in response to the acceptance, allocating to the scanner that sent the acceptance, a scan order for generation of the ~~digitised document requested in the said request is allocated to the scanner which sent the acceptance.~~digital document data file requested in said request,

and wherein each one of the plurality of scanners is provided with:

advertising means for advertising a request for a digital document data file communicated by the management unit on the local operator control unit, and

selection means for enabling an operator to select the advertised request

with aid of the local operator control unit and for automatically sending an acceptance of that request to the management unit.

2. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said receiving means includes:

means for receiving from a first scanner an inquiry concerning information regarding a request,

means for offering the requested information, and

means for receiving from the first scanner an acceptance of a request selected with aid of the local operator control ~~means~~ unit of the first scanner.

3. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said management unit is also provided with means for checking whether the requested ~~digitized~~ digital document data file is already available in a required digital form in a connected database.

4. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said allocation means, when allocating the scan order, prevents other scanners from accepting the request concerned for a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file.

5. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the request for a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file also contains a specification of required properties and format of the document data file.

6. (Original) The system according to claim 5, wherein said management unit, when allocating the scan order, automatically transmits to the accepting first scanner the specification associated with the relevant request.

7. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 5, wherein said management unit, simultaneously with indicating that a request has been

received for a digital ~~digitized~~ document data file, automatically transmits to applicable scanners the specification associated with the request.

8. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 6, wherein said first scanner is provided with means for automatically adjusting the scanning process to generate the required document data file in accordance with the specification in the request after allocation of the scan order.

9. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the request for a digital ~~digitized~~ document data file also contains a message to an operator of said scanner.

10. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the request for a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file also contains a precondition for processing.

11. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 10, wherein the precondition is used by said management unit as a contributory factor in indicating the received requests for a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file.

12. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein for each of said scanners, the advertising means includes ~~is provided with a display and with means for indicating thereon a request for a digitized document.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said management unit is provided with means for indicating a request for a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file in the form of a signal perceptible to an operator.

14. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said management unit is provided with means for indicating a request for a ~~digitized~~

digital document data file only to those scanners which are capable of executing a scanning process in accordance with the request.

15. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said management unit is provided with means for automatically dividing a first request for a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file into a plurality of second requests with different specifications.

16. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 15, wherein said management unit is provided with means for assembling ~~digitized~~ digital partial document[[s]] data files generated in response to the second requests, to form a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file corresponding to the first request.

17. (Currently Amended) A management unit for managing a system for generating ~~digitised documents~~digital document data files for a digital environment, the system having a plurality of scanners, each provided with a local operator control unit, the management unit comprising:

inputting means for receiving, from the digital environment, a request for a ~~digitised document,~~digital document data file;

warning means for communicating a request for a ~~digitised~~digital document data file to the plurality of scanners;

receiving means for receiving from any one of the scanners ~~presenting itself by an~~an autonomous acceptance of the request ~~as selected~~issued upon its selection by an operator by means of the local operator control unit of that scanner; and

allocation means ~~whereby, for,~~ in response to the acceptance, allocating to the scanner that sent the acceptance, a scan order for generation of the ~~digitised~~digital document data file requested in ~~the selected request is allocated to the scanner which sent the acceptance.~~said request.

18. (Previously Presented) The management unit according to claim 17, wherein said receiving means includes:

means for receiving from a first scanner an inquiry concerning information regarding a request,

means for offering the requested information, and

means for receiving from the first scanner an acceptance of a request selected with aid of the local operator control unit of the first scanner.

19. (Currently Amended) The management unit according to claim 17, further comprising:

means for checking whether the requested ~~digitized~~ digital document data file is already available in a required digital form in a connected database.

20. (Currently Amended) The management unit according to claim 17, wherein said allocation means, when allocating the scan order, prevents other scanners from accepting the request concerned for a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file.

21. (Currently Amended) The management unit according to claim 17, further comprising:

means for indicating a request for a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file only to those scanners which are capable of executing a scanning process in accordance with the request.

22. (Currently Amended) The management unit according to claim 17, further comprising:

means for automatically dividing a first request for a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file into a plurality of second requests with different specifications.

23. (Currently Amended) The management unit according to claim 22, further comprising:

means for assembling ~~digitized~~ digital partial document~~[[s]]~~ data files generated in response to the second requests, to form a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file corresponding to the first request.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of making ~~digitised documents~~digital document data files available to a digital environment, comprising:

~~receiving a request for a digitised document from the digital environment~~
receiving, at a central management unit, a request for a digital document data file from the digital environment;

automatically indicating from the central management unit to a plurality of scanners, that a request for a ~~digitized~~digital document data file has been received;

advertising the request on local operator control means of each one of the plurality of scanners;

~~selecting said~~selecting, by an operator, the request by with aid of the local operator control means of any one of the scanners and automatically sending an acceptance of ~~the~~that request from that accepting scanner to the central management unit;

in response to receiving the acceptance, automatically ~~allocating a scan order by the~~ allocating, by the central management unit to the accepting scanner, a scan order for generation of the ~~digitised~~digital document data file requested in ~~the request~~that request; and

executing the scan order on the accepting scanner.

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein said step of selecting ~~and accepting~~ a request comprises:

inquiring, with aid of the local operator control means of the accepting scanner, for information concerning the request,
offering the requested information by the central management unit,
selecting a request with [[the]] aid of the local operator control means of the accepting scanner, and
sending an acceptance of the selected request from the accepting scanner to the central management unit.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein in response to the reception of the request for a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file, a check is first made whether the requested document data file is already available in a required digital form in a connected database.

27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein in allocating the scan order, other scanners are prevented from accepting the relevant request for a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file.

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the request for a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file also contains a specification concerning required properties and format of the document data file.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein on allocation of the scan order the specification belonging to the associated request is automatically transmitted from the central management unit to the accepting scanner.

30. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein simultaneously with indicating that the request for a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file has been requested, the specification belonging to the request is automatically transmitted to applicable scanners.

31. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 29, wherein after allocation of a scan order, the scanning process for generating the required ~~digitized~~ digital document data file on the accepting scanner is automatically adjusted in accordance with the specification in the request.

32. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the request for a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file also contains a message to an operator of the accepting scanner.

33. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the request for a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file also contains a precondition for processing.

34. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 33, wherein the precondition is used by the central management unit as a contributory factor in indicating the received requests for a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file.

35. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the indication that the request for a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file has been received is made in the form of a signal perceptible to an operator.

36. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the indication that the request for a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file has been received is made in the form of a message on a display on a scanner.

37. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the request for a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file is indicated only at those scanners which are capable of executing a scanning process in accordance with the request.

38. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, further comprising:

dividing a first request for a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file into a plurality of second requests with different specifications.

39. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 38, wherein the central management unit assembles ~~digitized~~ digital part-document[[s]] data files generated in response to the second requests, to form a ~~digitized~~ digital document data file corresponding to the first request.